



Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

October 24, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,

I would like to bring to your attention the recent Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. I thank the FCC for its continued support of the E-Rate program and the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program is critical to assist schools (like mine) in obtaining affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Our school district is in Northeast Ohio. We have 4900 students across our small city of Wadsworth, OH. While we may be more of a smaller community, most families here are interested in science, engineering, programming, etc. We use E-Rate funding to provide high speed Internet access for our 10 buildings, 600 staff, and 4900 students. We have also started using E-Rate funding for improvements to our network.

The E-Rate program is a success as far as our district is concerned. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it must consider that E-Rate is an effective program. Any changes to the program should be focused on the expansion of this successful program, as well as give the changes adopted by the FCC in 2014 the time to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role in the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the changes adopted by the FCC in 2014 were a much-needed modernization to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. Additionally, the E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is invaluable and could not be funded by the school, district or state.

Wadsworth has already utilized some Category 2 funding, \$22,000 to date to improve our wireless systems at our high school and middle school. We still have \$338,000 we have yet to apply for. We have forecasted out to purchase a new wireless system for all schools in 2019 (at the end of the 5-year window) which we estimate will cost the district \$450,000. There is still usefulness left in our existing system, so we are trying to make the most of initial wireless investment years ago. Without Category 2 funding to help offset the cost of a new system in 2019, it will not be possible to take the district into a 1 to 1 scenario as we have planned.

My district both supports and relies on the E-Rate program to access and afford high-speed connectivity which is critical to a modern education. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

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